

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 2, 10 - 11, 17 - 18, 24, 26, 28, and 30 have been amended. Claims 8, 15, and 22 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Claim 31 has been added. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments or added claims, which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 7, 9 - 14, 16 - 21, and 23 - 31 are now in the application.

I. Claim Objections

Page 2 of the Office Action dated July 12, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 24, 26, and 28 are objected to because of informalities, and in particular, a typographical error is found in these claims. Appropriate correction has been made herein, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Pages 2 - 3 of the Office Action state that Claims 2, 11, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and in particular, antecedent basis for the term "said second digital certificates" is questioned. Appropriate correction has been made herein, reverting to the language of the claims as originally filed to correct this oversight, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Page 3 of the Office Action states that Claims 1, 5, 7 - 10, 14 - 17, and 21 - 30 are

rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 6,609,198 to Wood. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended their independent Claims 1, 10, and 17 herein to include claim language from now-cancelled Claims 8, 15, and 22, thus more clearly specifying use of placeholders (as discussed in Applicants' specification with reference, for example, to 440 and 445 of Fig. 4). The amended claim language states that the placeholder syntax in the "first sign-on message" received from the client (e.g., message 440 in Fig. 4) represents "a user identification and a password of said user, wherein said user identification and said password are expected in said first sign-on message by said first secure legacy host application" (emphasis added). See, e.g., Claim 1, lines 29 - 33. The server machine "substitut[es] said returned first user identifier and said returned password or password substitute for said placeholder syntax" and forwards that message to the legacy host application. See, e.g., message 445 in Fig. 4 and Claim 1, lines 37 - 40. (See also p. 26, line 19 - p. 27, line 11 of Applicants' specification, where these messages 440, 445 are discussed.)

Applicants have also amended independent Claim 30 to more clearly specify that the placeholder insertion creates a log-on message "in a form expected by said host application" (emphasis added).

Wood does not teach these limitations, as will now be discussed in more detail.

Page 8 of the Office Action, lines 1 - 2, pertain to the "placeholders" limitation that was previously found in now-cancelled Claims 8, 15, and 22. Page 11, lines 8 - 12 discuss the placeholder limitation from independent Claim 30. In both cases, the Office Action cites col. 13, lines 26 - 44 of Wood as teaching this limitation. The cited text discusses session tokens, which are provided to a browser (lines 27 - 29), and which may be transmitted using cookies (lines 30 - 36 and lines 41 - 44).

Applicants' claimed invention does not pertain to transmitting cookies to and from a browser. Applicants have clarified their claim language in independent Claims 1, 10, and 17 to specify that the placeholder syntax represents "a user identification and a password ... expected ... by said first secure legacy host application", as discussed above. The claim language of independent Claim 30 is clarified in a similar manner, as also discussed above. As is well known, legacy host applications do not expect their input in the browser-type cookie syntax (or, more generally, the browser-oriented session tokens) taught by Wood. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that their independent Claims 1, 10, 17, and 30 (and added Claim 31) are patentably distinct from the teachings of Wood.

Dependent Claims 2, 5 - 6, 11, 13, 18, and 20 are therefore deemed patentable over Wood as well. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §102 rejection.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

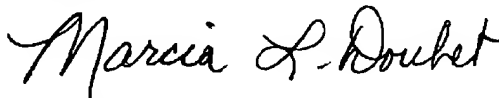
Page 12 of the Office Action states that Claims 2, 11, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of U. S. Patent 6,105,131 to Carroll. Page 13 of the Office Action states that Claims 3 - 4, 12, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of U. S. Patent 6,178,511 to Cohen et al., and that Claims 6, 13, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood and Cohen and further in view of Carroll. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As demonstrated above, Applicants submit that their independent claims are patentable over the teachings of Wood. Carroll and/or Cohen therefore cannot be combined with Wood to render dependent Claims 2 - 4, 6, 11 - 13, and 18 - 19 unpatentable. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejection.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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